

RONALD G. B.  
DIRECTOR  
COMMITTEE  
INTERSTATE AND  
COMMERCE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS  
AND POWER

CONFIDENTIAL WORKING 48 HOURS

House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 8, 1970

Attorney General John N. Mitchell  
Department of Justice  
Constitution Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20530

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ATTORNEY GENERAL

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Dear Mr. Attorney General:

Enclosed is a photocopy of an article which was published by the Denver Post on December 28, 1969. I have been requested by the Denver Post and friends of Dr. Riha, who is a constituent of mine, to do everything possible to assist in either locating the Professor or in determining additional facts about his disappearance.

It seems to me that the interest of the nation in general and the credibility of the FBI in particular is not well served by the proliferation of a belief that Professor Riha is the victim of some kind of international intrigue, if such is not the case.

Despite the implications found in the Denver Post article, I think it is quite possible that Professor Riha left Boulder because of domestic complications.

In this spirit I last week asked the FBI to provide me, either formally or informally, with a report on what the Bureau has done to locate Professor Riha. I was told last Friday that, aside from a file of inquiries made in Professor Riha's behalf, the Bureau has not looked into the matter and is not conducting inquiries.

I so informed the Denver Post.

However, in the course of similar inquiries to other federal agencies, I learned from the Central Intelligence Agency that at one point last year it made some preliminary inquiries, determined that no transactions within its jurisdiction were involved, and turned over whatever files were generated to the FBI. CIA also informed me that it understands, unofficially, that the FBI did look into the matter further, and that the Bureau may well know the whereabouts of Professor Riha and the circumstances behind his unusual disappearance.

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your Committee. Its use is limited to official proceedings by your Committee and the contents are not to be disclosed to unauthorized personnel without the express approval of the FBI.

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TWR: Kai  
"Thomas Riha" TWR:lp  
(Enc)